

College of Nursing and Health Professions

Baccalaureate nursing program receives national award

AACN recognizes innovation in geriatric nursing education

The University of Southern Indiana baccalaureate program in nursing has received a national award for curricular innovation in gerontological nursing education.

The award was presented in October at the Fall Semiannual Meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). **Dr. Nadine Coudret**, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, and **Renee Dugger**, instructor in nursing, attended the meeting in Washington, D.C., to accept the award.

The baccalaureate-level curricular innovation award was established by AACN and the John A. Hartford Institute to recognize nursing programs that demonstrate a strong commitment to geriatric nursing. Award criteria include the incorporation of

competencies and guidelines for geriatric nursing curriculum in a stand-alone gerontology course



Renee Dugger, left, and Dr. Nadine Coudret, third from left, accept the award from Dr. Terry Fulmer, representing the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, and Dr. Faye Bower, president of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

and/or throughout the curriculum, innovative approaches to curricular design, innovative teaching methodologies, community partnerships, innovative clinical experiences, and ease of replication. AACN will distribute information about the USI program as a model of excellence to other nursing programs nationwide.

Coudret said, "This award affirms and recognizes the excellence of our BSN curriculum and our college's commitment to providing students with the knowledge and skills essential in caring for their geriatric patients. Renee Dugger and the nursing faculty are to be commended for their leadership in receiving this national award."

New Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness established

A new Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness in the College of Nursing and Health Professions focuses on the needs of older adults. The center will be involved in research, health promotion, and community outreach.



Ehlman

Dr. Mary Catherine Ehlman, assistant professor of gerontology, was appointed director of the center in August. She recently completed a doctorate in health-related sciences—gerontology.

The center is pursuing a number of projects, including the following:

- **Bladder scanner study** - A research study funded by the Indiana State

Department of Health will assess the benefits of using a bladder ultrasound scanner in nursing homes. Four nursing homes in Southern Indiana will serve as study sites.

- **Conference on aging** - The College of Nursing and Health Professions and the Southwestern Indiana Regional Council on Aging will sponsor the second annual Mid-

America Institute on Aging August 12–13, 2009. The first two-day conference was well received last summer with more than 275 healthcare professionals, older adults, and caregivers attending the multidisciplinary event featuring nationally recognized speakers and sessions on 25 topics related to successful aging.

- **"Livable communities"** - Ehlman is meeting with representatives of community agencies to discuss partnering to develop Evansville as a "livable community." **Sandy Markwood**, keynote speaker at the recent aging conference, explained a national program called Blueprint for Action: Livable Communities for All Ages. It provides local leaders with detailed procedures and practical solutions in areas such as housing, zoning, transportation, health and supportive services, civic engagement, and lifelong learning.

- **STELLAR** - Students interested in aging and wellness have opportunities to collaborate with STELLAR (Students and Elderly Linking Around Relationships), a campus student organization focusing on healthy aging.

Dean's Notes

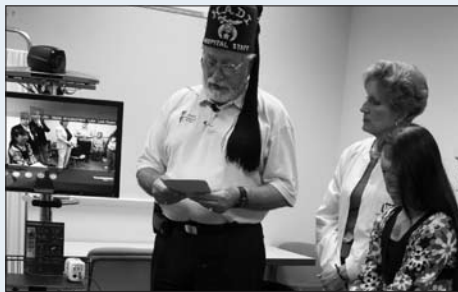
Telehealth comes to College of Nursing and Health Professions

The newly announced partnerships between our college, the Hadi Shrine, and Shriners Hospitals for Children is a win-win for area children, for Hadi Shrine members who unselfishly provide their time to transport children to hospitals in Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis, and for our faculty and students.

"Telehealth" is the use of telecommunications and information technology to provide healthcare services whenever there is large physical distance between patient and the healthcare providers. Telehealth is growing at a rapid rate and is being used in hospitals, clinics, physician offices, and homes. Recognizing this new frontier, we are developing a program of instruction and practice opportunities to better prepare students for this expanding area.

Throughout the country, Shriners specialty hospitals provide burn, orthopedic, cleft palate, and related specialty treatment for thousands of children at a cost of

millions of dollars. The local Hadi Shrine members have provided support and transportation to these



Telehealth provides real-time video consultation.

specialty hospitals for children living in Southwest Indiana. The annual cost estimate for this transportation, excluding donated time, is in excess of \$100,000. The transportation and treatment are provided to the children and their families without cost.

This local partnership is possible with the Shriners' purchase of telehealth equipment, USI's dedication of clinic space in the Health Professions Center, and the participation of USI nurse faculty clinicians. Children who have received their primary treatment at Shriners Hospitals for Children will receive care in the USI Telehealth Clinic in lieu of traveling 200-300 miles for follow-up assessment and suture/staple removal.

Our college is the first in the Midwest to have telehealth equipment and "in-house" practice opportunities. **Dr. Karen Parker**, assistant professor of nursing, visited the Shriners Children Burn Hospital in Cincinnati to prepare for USI's role in accepting patients for telehealth. **Gina Schaar** and **Kathy Phillips**, nursing faculty, also are participating in presenting and caring for patients in the Telehealth Clinic. Students and other faculty will have the opportunity to learn and participate in this rapidly expanding care-delivery system.



Dr. Nadine Coudret

New Southwest Indiana AHEC established with federal funding

The new Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center (AHEC) has been established with federal funding of more than \$203,000 to meet needs related to healthcare workforce and access issues in a 10-county area.

Hosted by the College of Nursing and Health Professions, the center was created in 2007 with a planning grant.

Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, said needs assessment and the development of an organizational structure began with the anticipation of federal funding beginning in fall 2008. The Southwest Indiana AHEC serves Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, and Warrick counties.

The nationwide AHEC network includes more than 200 centers. The six in Indiana are coordinated through a central program office housed in the Indiana University School of Medicine.

AHEC has three goals:

- improve the distribution of the health professions workforce
- improve the diversity of the health professions workforce
- improve the quality of health professions education and healthcare services

At a launch meeting in October, healthcare and community leaders from the 10 counties learned more about the Southwest Indiana AHEC. A number of \$5,000 mini-grants will be available to allow organizations to meet needs related to AHEC goals in their communities.

Jennifer Craig '01, executive director of the Southwest Indiana AHEC, said an advisory council has been formed. The council will elect officers at its January 7 meeting.

Planning is in progress for the following programs:

- summer camps to interest K-12 students in healthcare careers
- continuing education programs for healthcare professionals
- clinical experiences in rural settings for students in health professions

The recent funding covers the period from September 2008 through August 2009. The Bureau of Health Professions of the Health Resources and Services Administration administers the program.

Program Notes

Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene

Interdisciplinary service

Dental hygiene and occupational therapy students are collaborating to provide programming and services to the residents of WARM (Women's Addiction Recovery Manor) in Henderson, Kentucky. Seniors in dental hygiene provided risk assessment, screenings, and education about oral cancer for 100 residents. The women are at a higher risk of acquiring oral cancer because of their addictions to tobacco, drugs, or alcohol.

Occupational therapy students are providing instruction in life skills. They introduce residents to healthy leisure options and skills for dealing with the stresses of daily life. Activities are designed to reinforce the recovery program and offer residents a means for self-expression.

Periodontal clinic

Seniors in dental hygiene provided treatment to clients with moderate to severe periodontal disease recently during the program's first periodontal clinic. Students enhanced skills in creating diagnostic models, extraoral and intraoral photography, nutritional

analysis, and re-evaluation. Seniors will make presentations regarding the experience at the April meeting of the Ohio Valley Dental Hygienists' Association.

Food and Nutrition Experience in Kenya

Food and nutrition major **Priscilla Walker** of Indianapolis spent the summer in Kenya working primarily with HIV/AIDS patients as an intern with Christian Missionary Fellowship International. She also helped a Kenyan nutritionist develop a nutrition plan for a malnourished six-month-old baby named Alice.

"We developed a diet for Alice consisting of milk, butter, and egg boiled together to create a high-protein, high-fat diet," Walker said. "It was an amazing experience to work together with a native to develop a plan consistent with Kenyan lifestyles and culture. Though we were worried about Alice's iron, zinc, selenium, and vitamins A, C, and E needs, we wanted to focus primarily on the fat and protein needs to get her to thrive again. Resources and food availability were scarce."

Health Services

Alumna in residence

Shelby Collins '97 '98 '05, director of the St. Mary's Center for Children in Evansville, was alumna in residence in October for the College of Nursing and Health Professions. She spoke on transitioning to leadership.

A turning point for Collins was accepting a job as a dental hygienist in 2000 with St. Mary's Mobile Dental Clinic for children.

"I took an active role in helping to lead this program and enjoyed the aspects of the position that allowed me to develop community partnerships, offer input into daily operations, and assume responsibility that was not available to me in the private practice setting," she said.

Largely because of that experience, she decided to pursue a master's degree. Collins completed a certificate in dental assisting, an associate degree in dental hygiene, a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene education, and the master's program in health administration. She was named to her present position in 2006.



Collins

Nursing

First D.N.P. class

Seventeen students are enrolled in the first class of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. The first doctoral students for the College of Nursing and Health Professions and the University were on campus in August for a three-day intensive session.

Patricia Tretheway '04 M.S.N. of South Bend, Indiana, said, "For me as a professor at Indiana University, I think it's a natural progression to move on to a doctoral program. This is one that allows me to be practice oriented and yet promote the discipline of nursing. It also will provide me with the increased

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Graduate is guest editor of nursing journal

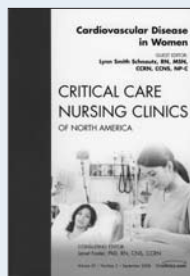
Lynn Smith Schnautz '07 was guest editor for the September 2008 issue of the professional journal *Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America*. The issue focused on cardiovascular disease in women.

As guest editor, Schnautz solicited experts to write 14 articles on topics related to women and heart disease for the peer-reviewed journal. Other contributors with a USI connection included **Patricia Leggett '01**; **Dr. Roberta E. Hoebeke**, associate professor of nursing; **Mary Jane Swartz**, instructor in nursing; **Kelli S. Dempsey '98 '00**; and **Lori Barron**, graduate nursing student.

Schnautz earned a post-master's certificate in the family nurse practitioner program in 2007. A cardiovascular nurse for 22 years, she accepted an appointment with Deaconess Medical Group to serve as the family nurse practitioner at the USI Student Health Center in August.



Schnautz



Program Notes

Continued from page 3

level of expertise with the geriatric population that I truly love working with and allows me to provide an excellent level of care to the patients I see as a nurse practitioner with a family practice here in north central Indiana."

Trethewey is a member of the nursing faculty at Indiana University South Bend.

In evaluating the August intensive sessions, several doctoral students commended the supportive faculty, clear objectives, and opportunity to bond with fellow students.

Dr. Ann White, assistant dean for nursing and professor of nursing, is program director for the new Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

Reflecting the growth in the nursing program with the addition of the doctoral program, two faculty members have accepted additional responsibilities for the master's and bachelor's degree programs. **Dr. Mayola Rowser**, assistant professor of nursing, has been named program director for the Master of Science in Nursing Program. Rowser recently completed a Ph.D. in nursing at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. She earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice in 2005.

Dr. Elizabeth G. Johnson, associate professor of nursing, is program director for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.



Dr. Ann White meets with students in the first class of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. From left are Rhonda Hettinger of New Albany, Indiana; White; Deborah Kinney '03 '04 M.S.N. of Evansville; and Patricia Trethewey '04 M.S.N. of South Bend, Indiana.



Occupational therapy student Keegan Humphrey collects data as a Solarbron resident exercises with Nintendo Wii Fit software and balance board.

Occupational Therapy

Wii Fit at Solarbron

Residents at Solarbron Pointe Retirement Community are exercising with the aerobic and balance activities of Nintendo's Wii Fit system in a research study conducted by graduate students in occupational therapy. The students are exploring whether the new game system can help improve cardiovascular endurance, quality of life, and balance for a well elderly population.

Students conducting the research include **Nicole Doherty, Andrew Bender, Amanda Davis, Keegan Humphrey, Holly Mattox, and Jessie Tibbs.**

Radiologic and Imaging Sciences

Program director

Claudine Fairchild, assistant professor of radiologic and imaging sciences, has been named program director for the diagnostic sonography program. She joined USI in 2001.

Portable equipment

Interstate Imaging of Evansville has provided the radiologic technology program with a portable x-ray machine. Students have the opportunity to gain competency for the clinical setting by practicing moving, adjusting, and manipulating the equipment in the classroom environment. The machine will be used in scenarios in the clinical simulation lab and in classes on exposures and trauma procedures.

Dr. Martin Reed, program director for radiologic technology, said, "In the simulation lab students can learn how to take the portable x-ray equipment to the bed and position it correctly over the patient as if they were going to take an exposure in a hospital room. We also do some collaborative learning in the simulation lab where our students learn how to communicate and cooperate with other healthcare professionals."

Respiratory Therapy

Successful graduates

Six students completed the respiratory therapy program in August. **Zachary Farmer** received the Deaconess Hospital/Essa P. Goebel Award for academic achievement; **John King** received the Deaconess Hospital/Essa P. Goebel Award for leadership and professionalism. All six graduates have successfully completed the National Board for Respiratory Care certified respiratory therapist examination and achieved state licensure.

Respiratory Care Club

Members of the Respiratory Care Club celebrated National Respiratory Care Week in October. They will participate in at least eight health fairs.

Faculty Notes

Judi L. Kuric, instructor in nursing, will present a workshop on spine trauma in Las Vegas at a national meeting of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses.

Dr. Mary Catherine Ehlman, assistant professor of gerontology and director of the Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness, has earned a Doctor of Philosophy in health-related sciences—gerontology from Virginia Commonwealth University. Her dissertation was titled “Medicaid Reimbursement in Indiana Nursing Homes: The Impact on Quality.”

Dr. Mary Ann Wehmer, instructor in nursing, has completed the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Case Western Reserve University. Her research was on the topic of spiritual well-being in nursing students. Wehmer is a member of the National Education

Committee for the Association of Perioperative Nurses (AORN). Information which she created and uses in teaching at USI will be part of AORN’s national program known as The Primer Course for perioperative education. Wehmer will participate in a Think Tank Meeting sponsored by the Competency and Credentialing Institute to develop a certificate program for perioperative educators and staff development.

Dr. Barbara Davis, professor of nursing, will make presentations related to emergency care satisfaction and student research in February at the Southern Nursing Research Society conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Roberta E. Hoebeke has been promoted to associate professor of nursing. She is the author of the article “Low-income women’s perceived

barriers to physical activity: focus group results” published in the May 2008 issue of the journal *Applied Nursing Research*. Her article “Diagnosing plantar fasciitis” was selected for the January 2008 issue of *Journal for Nurse Practitioners*.

Dr. Mellisa Hall, instructor in nursing, has completed the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Case Western Reserve University. She made a presentation in October at the 2008 conference for the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Hall’s topic was an evaluation model adapted for clinical evaluation of undergraduate nursing students.

Lesla Cagle, assistant professor of nutrition, is chair of the Faculty Senate for 2008-09.

Help strengthen the College of Nursing and Health Professions

Your gift to the College of Nursing and Health Professions helps strengthen its programs and provides support for its students and faculty.

**Apply my gift in the following way.
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A contribution of \$25 or more to any USI Foundation fund makes graduates “active” members of the USI Alumni Association.

To learn more,
visit www.usi.edu/giving

College welcomes five to faculty

New faculty joined the College of Nursing and Health Professions for the fall semester.

Dr. Brandon M. Eggleston, instructor in health services, earned a master's degree in public health from Indiana University School of Medicine and a doctorate in health behavior with a minor in biostatistics from Indiana University. He was previously associate instructor of health and statistics at IU. His research interests include yoga, complementary and alternative medicine, and HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections. He has served as a statistical consultant.



Eggleston



Elkins



Hargis



Rennels



Swartz

Ethel Elkins, instructor in health services/administration, earned a master's degree in secondary education and community counseling from the University of Evansville and a master's degree in health administration from USI. She has served as an adjunct faculty member in health services and is co-investigator with **Dr. Kevin Valadares** in a research project examining generational differences in physicians. She is a licensed clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, and mental health counselor. She is employed part time as a clinical staffing supervisor with Ireland Home Based Services.

Elizabeth Keeley Hargis, instructor in nursing, completed a bachelor's degree in biology at Kentucky Wesleyan College and a Master of Science in Nursing at Vanderbilt University. A board-certified women's health nurse practitioner, she has worked as a nurse practitioner in a variety of settings. Hargis most recently taught nursing at Vanderbilt. Her interests include gynecologic oncology and medical care for

incarcerated women. She is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Janet D. Rennels, instructor in food and nutrition, earned bachelor's and master's degrees in dietetics from Eastern Illinois University. A registered dietician for 16 years, she most recently was associated with St. Mary's Medical Center Outreach Services working with public and parochial schools in Vanderburgh County. She holds a Certificate of Training in Childhood and Adolescent Weight Management. Her interests include the availability of healthy food and nutrition education for the community, particularly for elementary and secondary school students and the economically disadvantaged.

Mary Jane Swartz, instructor in nursing, completed a master's degree in nursing at the University of Evansville. She was most recently manager of acute care nursing units for Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Evansville. Prior to that, she served for 14 years on the nursing faculty at Ivy Tech Community College in Evansville, where she was a four-time recipient of the Excellence in Instruction Award. Swartz is a board-certified advanced practice registered nurse.

Alumni news

Chenoa Splittorff '99, nursing, was selected Leadership Nurse of the Year for Deaconess Health System in Evansville. She is team leader for the orthopedics unit of the Deaconess Gateway joint replacement program. Splittorff was recognized during National Nurses Week in May.

Michelle Folz '02, a student in the master's degree program in nursing, was named 2008 Employee of the Year at Women's Hospital in Newburgh, Indiana. Folz is the charge nurse for surgical services.

Calling all alumni

Submit news along with your degree and year of graduation, major, address, phone number, current position, and employer to College of Nursing and Health Professions, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, Indiana 47712, or e-mail dgutley@usi.edu.

Three appointments announced

Three appointments have been announced in the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Dennie J. Siepinski has joined the college as instructional and Internet services coordinator. He earned a bachelor's degree in technology education at State University of New York at Buffalo and an M.Ed. in instructional design/technology from the University of South Florida. He was previously technology coordinator for the University of Pittsburgh in Bradford, Pennsylvania.



Siepinski



Utley



Walker

Diane G. Utley has been named coordinator of student activities and grants for the college. She was most recently administrative assistant for the radiologic and imaging sciences program. Utley earned undergraduate degrees in English and sociology at Western Kentucky University and is pursuing a master's degree in liberal studies at USI.

Kristina M. Walker '08 has been named admission and advising coordinator. A graduate of the food and nutrition program, she most recently taught a nutrition and exercise program called Professor Popcorn to elementary school students through the Vanderburgh County Extension Office.

MSN student's proposal results in \$100,000 grant

Individuals experiencing heart attacks in the greater Louisville, Kentucky, area can now expect timesaving decisions about their hospital care to be made while they are in the ambulance on their way to the emergency room.



Higdon

Karen Higdon, a student in the Master of Science in Nursing program, submitted a grant proposal she wrote as a class assignment to Norton Healthcare Community Trust Fund. The proposal resulted in a \$100,000 grant to equip 83

ambulances operated by Louisville Metro Emergency Medical Services with software to transmit electrocardiograph test results to three Norton hospitals. The new technology allows Norton personnel to identify patients with completely blocked arteries before they arrive at the hospital and provide more immediate treatment.

When Higdon prepared the grant proposal, she was nurse manager for the transitional care unit at Norton Audubon Hospital. She recently was named director of patient care services at Norton Hospital in downtown Louisville.

Lori Grimm named Distinguished Alumna

Lori Grimm '08 M.S.N., manager of quality and patient safety officer at Women's Hospital in Newburgh, Indiana, is the 2008 recipient of the Distinguished Nursing Alumna Award presented by the USI Nursing Alumni Society.



Grimm

The award was presented in October at the organization's annual meeting.

Grimm earned a master's degree in the nursing management and leadership track.

She completed a B.S.N. degree at DePauw University in 1991.

Summer travel/study available in England

Students and faculty will travel to Grantham, England, May 30-June 14 for a travel/study program involving the English healthcare system. The group will live and study at Harlaxton Manor with visits to sites that provide a look at the historic perspective and current practices in the United Kingdom's National Health Service. Participants will have a four-day weekend opportunity for independent travel.

Contact **Dr. Jeri Burger**, assistant professor of nursing, at 812/461-5340 or jlburger2@usi.edu for additional information.



John Lawrence and Tracy Kinner

Tracy Kinner recognized for outstanding teaching

Tracy Kinner '05 M.S.N., instructor in nursing, is the 2008 recipient of the Melissa Faye Lawrence and John M. Lawrence Excellence in Teaching Award. Established by **John Lawrence**, the \$2,500 award is the largest faculty development award given through the USI Foundation. It recognizes outstanding teaching in nursing programs.

MSN student honored for excellence in ICU nursing

Melissa Bowling, intensive care unit manager, was recognized as 2008 Nurse of the Year in the "nursing excellence" category by Schneck Medical Center in Seymour, Indiana, during National Nurses Week. She is a student in the Master of Science in Nursing program.

MSN student receives \$2,000 IONE scholarship

Audra Douglas '05, a student in the Master of Science in Nursing program, has been awarded a \$2,000 scholarship by the Indiana Organization of Nurse Executives. She was recognized in October at IONE's fall conference in Brown County, Indiana. Douglas is lean deployment director at St. Mary's Hospital in Evansville.

College earns national accreditation for nursing continuing education

The College of Nursing and Health Professions has received national accreditation as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) following submission of an in-depth self study of the continuing nursing education program and a site visit.

Student practicum assists in wellness certification

Kristen Jerger '08, a food and nutrition major, completed a practicum in the spring with the Tri-State Business Group on Health. She worked primarily at George Koch Sons to compile documentation for the Wellness Council of Indiana Certification - Well Workplace Award. The company was awarded the certification in August.

2009 Nursing and Health Professions Continuing Education

Workshops and Conferences

Heart of Cardiovascular Nursing, March 12

Healing Touch Workshops, March 14-15

6th Annual Nursing Leadership Conference, April 8

13th Annual Research and Health Care Issues Conference,
April 22

15th Annual Case Management Conference, May 14

11th Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Symposium, May 15

Visit http://health.usi.edu/cont_ed/conferences.php
for information on additional spring program offerings.

Customized programs: For programs tailored to meet the specific needs of your organization, contact Peggy Graul, coordinator of Continuing Education, College of Nursing and Health Professions, University of Southern Indiana, pgraul@usi.edu or 812/465-1161.

Certificate Programs (Internet-delivered instruction)

Alzheimer's Disease Management, six weeks, begins
March 16

Anticoagulation Billing, three weeks, begins February 2

Anticoagulation Therapy Management, six weeks,
begins January 12, March 16, May 11, and July 6

Case Management, six weeks, begins January 12 and
April 13

Chronic Heart Failure, five weeks, begins January 19

Complementary and Alternative Health Care, six
weeks, begins February 9

Diabetes Management, six weeks, begins January 12
and March 30

Health Promotion and Worksite Wellness, 10 weeks,
begins January 19

Lipid Management, six weeks, begins February 2

Pain Management, six weeks, begins January 26

Basic Parish Nursing, six weeks, begins March 9

Wound Management, six weeks, begins April 20

Registration information: health.usi.edu or 812/465-1148

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